

**CVP-SWP Operations Delta Smelt Fall Habitat
Adaptive Management Program
*Presentation of Conceptual Model and Draft Conceptual Work Plan***

JUNE 18, 2009

9:00 AM to 3:00PM

CALFED Delta Room, 650 Capitol Mall, Sacramento CA 95814

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Biological Opinion (BO) for the California Central Valley and State Water Project Operations (OCAP) included a Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) to avoid jeopardy and remove adverse modification of critical habitat to the delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*). The BO restored flow variability to the estuary during the fall (September through November) to improve habitat conditions for rearing juveniles. The Service acknowledges, however, that the specific mechanistic link(s) relating variability in fall X2 to variability in survival and recruitment of delta smelt are not fully understood. To address this uncertainty, a scientifically-based adaptive management process was established, and a ten-year adaptive management program initiated. This program includes a study that is being crafted by a team of agency and academic scientists with specific expertise in the ecology of the San Francisco estuary, the Habitat Study Group (HSG).

A public meeting has been scheduled for *June 18, 2009* to present the conceptual model for the study and a draft conceptual workplan with experimental ideas and study questions. The agenda for this meeting follows. Written comments may be submitted to the HSG following the meeting, and appropriate technical comments will be posted to the Service website and considered during the HSG study plan crafting. Comments regarding the biological opinion, issues other than specific scientific comments or questions relevant to delta ecology, or those pertinent to ongoing litigation are not appropriate for this venue.

Meeting Agenda

- 9:15 *Convene*
- 9:30 Commence meeting opening remarks/Ground Rules (Facilitator: Chotkowski)
- 9:40 Introduction to the HSG process and schedule (Presenter: Detwiler)
- 10:00 State of Science: Why fall X2 is important for DS (Presenter: Feyrer)
- 10:45 ~BREAK~
- 11:00 Conceptual Model and Draft Conceptual Work Plan (Presenter: Kimmerer)
- 12:30 ~LUNCH BREAK~
- 1:30 Guidance on Study and Technical Input (structured Q&A) (Moderator: Herbold)